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Andrew H. Pritchard

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EXAMINER

AKINTOLA, OLABODE

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/927,628	Applicant(s) PRITCHARD, ANDREW H.	
	Examiner OLABODE AKINTOLA	Art Unit 3691	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 17-21 and 23-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 17-21 and 23-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/29/2008</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-2 and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The limitation “determining, based on the performance, to trade at least one share of the investment trust” in claims 1 and 20 do not have support in the originally filed disclosure. Applicant is requested to cite relevant portion(s) of the original disclosure that teaches these limitations.

The limitation “determining, based on the performance, to trade the selected instrument, in which the selected instrument fails to meet at least one of the risk/preference provided by the user” in claims 2 and 21 do not have support in the originally filed disclosure. Applicant is requested to cite relevant portion(s) of the original disclosure that teaches these limitations.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 17-21 and 23-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tull, Jr. et al (US 5946667) (Tull) in view of Wallman (US 6601044) (Wallman).

Re claims 1, 20 and 30: Tull teaches a method comprising: selecting an instrument from a plurality of instruments (col. 3, line 62 - col. 4, line 3); storing the selected instrument in an investment trust, in which the investment trust comprises a plurality of selected investment instruments and is traded on an exchange (col. 6, lines 14-24); tracking a performance of the selected instrument on the exchange (abstract, col. 3, lines 22-40, col. 6, lines 4-32, col. 17, lines 25-45); storing the performance of the selected instrument in a database comprising a plurality of

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performances for each selected instrument of the investment trust (col. 6, lines 4-32); and determining, based on the performance, to trade at least one share of the investment trust, in which the at least one share corresponds to a percentage of ownership in each selected instrument of the investment trust (col. 7, lines 50-67, col. 15, lines 15-33, col. 17, lines 25-45). Tull does not explicitly teach receiving at a computer device at least one risk/return preference associated that is provided by a user; selecting, based on the at least one risk/return preference, an instrument from a plurality of instruments. Wallman, in the same field of endeavor, teaches receiving at a computer device at least one risk/return preference associated that is provided by a user; selecting, based on the at least one risk/return preference, an instrument from a plurality of instruments (abstract, col. 14, lines 29-48). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Tull to include this feature as taught by Wallman. One would have been motivated to do so in order to ensure that the selected instrument satisfy the investor's risk and return selection or other preferences that the investor may have.

Re claims 2 and 21: Tull teaches determining, based on the performance, to trade the selected instrument, in which the selected instrument fails to meet at least one of the risk/preference provided by the user; and transmitting a request to trade the selected instrument on the exchange (col. 7, lines 50-67, col. 15, lines 15-33, col. 17, lines 25-45).

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Re claim 4 and 23: Tull teaches wherein the performance of a selected instrument comprises at least one of: a value of the selected instrument in real-time; and a value of the selected instrument over a period of time (col. 3, lines 22-25, col. 17, lines 41-45).

Re claims 5 and 24: Tull teaches calculating a value of each selected instrument in the investment trust; adjusting the value of each selected instrument by an external factor; generating an aggregate value of the investment instrument, in which the aggregate value is derived from the adjusted value of each selected instrument in the investment trust; and transmitting a request to sell each share of the investment trust at the aggregate value on the exchange (col. 4, lines 37-53).

Re claims 6 and 25: Tull teaches wherein the external factor comprises at least one of: a cost of managing the selected instrument; an income accrued from the selected instrument; and a fee associated with clearing custody (col. 4, lines 37-53).

Re claims 7 and 26: Tull teaches: determining that one of the selected instrument has expired; selecting a second instrument from the database, in which the second instrument comprises a risk/return preference that is similar to that of the expired instrument; transmitting a request to purchase the second instrument on the exchange; and removing the expired investment instrument from the investment trust; and storing the second instrument in the investment trust (col. 4, lines 16-18).

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Re claims 17 and 27: Tull teaches the investment instrument comprises at least one of: a stock, a bond, a debt instrument, an exchange traded-fund, a mutual fund, a currency, a commodity, an equity investment, a futures investment, a futures contract, a dividend-paying investment, an intellectual property right, a right to receive royalties, a real property or personal property (abstract).

Re claims 18 and 28: Tull does not explicitly teach wherein the risk/return preference comprises at least one of: a growth in equity that is selected by the user, a rate of return that is selected by the user, and a level of risk that is selected by the user. Wallman teaches wherein the risk/return preference comprises at least one of: a growth in equity that is selected by the user, a rate of return that is selected by the user, and a level of risk that is selected by the user (col. 14, lines 29-48). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Tull to include this feature as taught by Wallman. One would have been motivated to do so in order to ensure that the selected instrument satisfy the investor's risk and return selection or other preferences that the investor may have.

Re claims 19 and 29: Tull does not explicitly teach receiving a request to redeem the investment trust; calculating a value of the investment trust and converting the investment trust into the value in cash (col. 4, lines 16-19).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 9/12/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that neither Tull or Wallman teaches "tracking a performance of the selected instrument on the exchange" and "determining, based on the performance, to trade at least one share of the investment trust, in which the at least one share corresponds to a percentage of ownership in each selected instrument of the investment trust". Tull explicitly teaches these limitations at abstract, col. 3, lines 22-40, col. 6, lines 4-32, col. 17, lines 25-45, col. 7, lines 50-67, col. 15, lines 15-33.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, selection of investment instrument using mathematical algorithm and/or risk/return preference of a user are old and well known means of selecting investment instruments. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include in the system of Tull the ability to receive at least one risk/return preference from a user as taught by Wellman since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination, each element merely would have performed the same functionality as it did separately, and one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that the results of the combination were predictable.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to OLABODE AKINTOLA whose telephone number is (571)272-3629. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM -5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on 571-272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

OA

/Hani M. Kazimi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3691